

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claim 2 without prejudice or disclaimer.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) An automatic sampler (~~AS~~) of the type functionally associable with at least two instruments (~~GC1 and GC2~~) for chromatographic analysis and with at least one plurality of containers (~~V~~) of samples (~~S~~) to be subjected to chromatographic analysis, characterized in that it can be the automatic samples being interfaced with at least two or more independent data systems for data acquisition and processing, and for the control/management of said automatic sampler, wherein said data systems serve each of at least two chromatographic analysis systems selected from at least one of gas chromatographic systems and liquid chromatographic systems.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) An automatic sampler according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ two or more distinct interfaces are provided for interfacing with said two or more independent data systems (~~DS~~).

4. (Currently Amended) An automatic sampler according to claim 3, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ said interfaces are of the RS-232, Ethernet TCP/IP LAN, IR, or Wireless type.

5. (Currently Amended) An automatic sampler according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ said data systems include one or more computers.

6. (Currently Amended) An automatic sampler according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ two or more interfaces are provided for interfacing with each of said ~~instruments (GC1 and GC2)~~ chromatographic analysis systems for chromatographic analysis.

7. (Currently Amended) An automatic sampler according to claim 6, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ said two or more interfaces allow the transmission of interfacing logic signals between said at least two ~~instruments~~chromatographic analysis systems and said sampler, so as to enable their synchronization.

8. (Currently Amended) A method for the acquisition and/or processing of data regarding the chromatographic analysis of samples ~~(S)~~ via the control of an automatic sampler ~~(AS)~~ according to claim 1, including the steps of:

definition of a first sampling sequence on a first ~~(DS1)~~ of said two or more independent data systems ~~(DS)~~_i

definition of a second sampling sequence on a second ~~(DS2)~~ of said two or more independent data systems ~~(DS)~~_i

definition of an nth sampling sequence on an nth ~~(DSn)~~ of said two or more independent data systems ~~(DS)~~_i; and

activation of said automatic sampler ~~(AS)~~ by said first data system ~~(DS1)~~, according to said first sampling sequence, for feeding said samples ~~(S)~~ to a first ~~instrument (GC1)~~ for chromatographic analysis system, or, in a separate manner, by said second data system ~~(DS2)~~, according to said second sampling sequence, for feeding said samples ~~(S)~~ to a second ~~instrument (GC2)~~ for chromatographic analysis system, or by said nth data system ~~(DSn)~~, according to said nth sampling sequence, for feeding said samples ~~(S)~~ to an nth chromatographic analysis ~~instrument (GCn)~~ system, wherein said first through nth chromatographic analysis systems are selected from gas chromatographic systems and liquid chromatographic systems.

9. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 8, ~~characterized in that a further step is included~~ comprising:

acquisition and/or processing of data regarding the chromatographic analysis of said samples-(S), said data being obtained with said first, with said second or with said nth sampling sequence from said first-(GC1), said second (GC2)-or said nth (GCn)-chromatographic analysis ~~instruments~~system.

10. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 8, ~~characterized in that a further step is included~~comprising:

reading of the code associated with the containers (V)-of said samples-(S), via a code reader (BCR)-of said automatic sampler-(AS).

11. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 8, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ for each of said samples (S)-analyzed by one of said ~~instruments~~ (GC1, GC2, GCn)-systems for chromatographic analysis, the data regarding the chromatographic analysis and/or the operational data regarding said automatic sampler (AS)-and said ~~instruments~~ (GC1, GC2, GCn)-systems for chromatographic analysis and/or the sampling sequence set up for said analysis, are acquired.